

the first mentioned Gallinule was shot in 1884, the dogs drove out from the reeds another, which was shot; and on the same day, a little farther down the river, and about a mile north of the Connecticut State line, I saw what at first seemed to be a Grebe swimming rapidly out into the river; upon pursuing it with a boat it arose, flying slowly and near the water, and was also killed. This made the fourth time I had been present at the capture of a Florida Gallinule in this vicinity within two years. I also think I have seen birds of this kind on other occasions when they have not been taken, and have very little doubt but that my companion was correct in his statement in 1884, that he had shot one, although there is a possibility he had mistaken a Coot for a Gallinule. They very closely resemble each other in every respect, except the feet. At all other places where these birds were first found, the bottom was very soft and there was a rank growth of wild rice, upon the seeds of which plant the birds were feeding.—ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass.*

Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*) in Rhode Island.—On September 13, 1886, one of these Phalaropes, in immature plumage, was brought to me by J. Glynn, Jr., who had noticed it among some birds shot by one of the local sportsmen, and seeing that it belonged to an uncommon species had obtained it from him. I understand that when shot it was in company with two 'Creakers' (*Tringa maculata*). This is the second record of the bird's occurrence in this State.—WILLIAM C. RIVES, JR., M. D., *Newport, R. I.*

Occurrence of Phalaropus lobatus at Syracuse, N. Y.—September 3, 1886, an adult male Northern Phalarope was shown to me by Mr. Charles Noxon of this city, who procured it September 2 on Onondaga Lake, on the outskirts of Syracuse.

The bird, in company with another (female), which was also secured, was discovered swimming gracefully about in the middle of the lake, and both were so tame as to be shot without trouble. Two days after (September 4) another specimen, a male, was shot in the same locality by Mr. E. M. Hasbrouk; on September 25, following, another was seen, but not procured. Previous to this the Northern Phalarope has been recorded but once in this County.—MORRIS M. GREEN, *Syracuse, N. Y.*

A Fern-eating Woodcock.—One of the most singular departures of birds from their ordinary food-habits that I have ever observed is the following: In examining the digestive organs of more than one hundred Woodcocks, I think I have never found in them anything but the common earth-worm, either entire or in various stages of digestion, excepting in one or two instances, a leech (*Hirudo medicinalis*).

The Woodcock in question was brought to me to be mounted by Mr. W. C. Alvord, of Washington, D. C., who shot it while Woodcock shooting at Martha's Vineyard. This bird was one of several killed on the 17th of October, 1885. When skinning it my attention was called to its very

singularly distended crop. Upon making a cut into the membrane with a pair of scissors, out rolled, or rather jumped, the contents, which being released from confinement increased to three times its former size. At the same moment I was astonished to observe the character of the contents, which proved to be leaves of the common fern (*Pteris aquilina*), rolled up in so curious a manner, and in such quantity, as to plainly indicate that it was the result of a deliberate meal, and not an accident.

The crop was so full as to be incapable of holding any additional material. No other substance was mixed with the leaves, the entire wad or ball being free from dirt of any character. Every leaflet of the fronds was intact, and after being soaked in warm water and spread out side by side they covered a space twelve inches square. The stomach and intestines appeared to contain parts of partly digested leaves, but nothing else, though this was not carefully determined.

A '*Fern-eating Woodcock*' is a novelty in my experience. Drs. Merriam and Fisher have desired me to send this record for publication to 'The Auk.' This is one of the most singular instances noted, not excepting even the record of the presence of an entire Song Sparrow in the crop of a Chuck-wills-widow.

It may be mentioned that the locality where this Woodcock was shot was an open marsh, with bushes here and there, while springs and small streams afforded in abundance the usual food of this very fastidious bird. The specimen was in fine condition—a plump and fat old female.—
FREDERIC S. WEBSTER, *Washington, D. C.*

A Further Note on *Colinus ridgwayi*.—I have recently received a letter from Mr. Herbert Brown, calling my attention to an error in my recent paper on this species (Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., I, No. 7, 1886, pp. 273 and 275, footnotes), in which the pair of Quails referred to as seen by Mr. Stephens are said to be the fragments sent to Mr. Ridgway and now in the National Museum. It proves they were not these specimens, but a "fairly good pair," which was later sent by Mr. Brown to Mr. Henshaw, and through the latter's kindness now before me. This adds two to the list of specimens known to be extant, raising the number to 21. The male presents the average characters shown by the series previously examined; the female is darker than the average for that sex, being in fact much the darkest of the series thus far seen, the bars, both the black and the white ones, being much stronger both above and below, and the tones of color much brighter and stronger throughout. It is thus an almost exact counterpart of the more strongly colored females of *Colinus graysoni*.

This proves to be the pair of birds referred to by Mr. Brown in one of his 'Forest and Stream' articles (Vol. XXV, No. 25, Jan. 14, 1886, p. 445), as having been seen by Mr. F. Stephens, W. E. D. Scott, E. W. Nelson, and H. W. Henshaw. Mr. Henshaw informs me that he had entirely forgotten having these birds in his possession until I spoke to him of them after receiving Mr. Brown's letter, as mentioned above. Had he recalled the fact of his having them at the time he heard I was at work on a paper on